



HAMATEURCHATTER



One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs - since 1917

Vol. 15 No. 4 - April, 2007

PRESIDENT'S LETTER by Howard, AB9FH

First of all this month, I want to thank those of you who came to our March meeting, or promoted it among your friends and acquaintances, and gave the ARRL's Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, and Gordon West, WB6NOA, such a large and attentive audience. Thanks are due also to Dave DeFebo, WB9BWP, who arranged it for us. Having guests of national stature, at least in ham radio terms, is a real help to the club. In a more practical sense, Bob gave the club several ARRL publications, including the 2007 Handbook, the RFI book, and the desk size Repeater Directory (important to the bifocally challenged among us). These will definitely add interest to our May auction (or perhaps may become door prizes?).

At the April meeting, we will be looking for people interested in serving on the Board. There are three seats potentially open. I believe two of the three current board members will be wanting to return. If you have never served on the board or haven't served for a while, please consider throwing your hat into the ring. I believe the club is served best when there is an actual election. The elections (and the aforementioned auction) are com-

ing up in May. This year again, the June meeting will be after Field Day, so these will be our only chances to talk over any details. We have our cochairmen already set, Jim and Pancho, and they can't do all the work themselves, though they do a lot to make for a relaxed event for the rest of us.

We have established the weekend of August 4th as the weekend for our 90th Anniversary celebration. Will this be a one day or whole weekend event? Not sure at this point. One other event somewhat in the air is a General class. If you know anyone who is interested in working on getting it done before the test changes this summer (and by some accounts it is going to get more difficult), have them contact me or any board member.

As I write this, the snow has finally stopped falling. Well, it is April. There are still a few sessions of weather spotting training available. If I remember correctly, 6" of snow is not a reportable condition. It's good to be trained and ready, of course, even if you never actually have anything to report.

73 and good sledding,

Howard AB9FH

MRAC Officers

President	
Howard Parks	AB9FH
Vice President	
Joe Schwarz	N9UX
Secretary	
Sarah Parks	KB9ZNC
Treasurer	
Mark Tellier	AB9CD

Board of Directors

Pancho Doneis ('05-'07)	KA9OFA
Tom Liebe ('06-'08)	WI9TOM
Ted Stiller ('06-'08)	WA9RDI
Jerry Wahlen ('05-'07)	WA9CGE
Dick Wood ('05-'07)	W9JBE

HamateurChatter Editor

Pancho Doneis	KA9OFA
New:	adoneis@wi.rr.com
	(414) 344-4694

HamateurChatter Emailings

Joe Schwarz	N9UX
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Regular Mailings

Dick Wood	W9JBE
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Club/VEC Phone no. is

(414) 332-MRAC or
(414) 332-6 7 2 2

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www.w9rh.org

Address correspondence to:

M. R. A. C.

P.O. Box 070695

Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695
 or w9rh@arrrl.net

NETS HEARD IN THE MILWAUKEE AREA

DAY	TIME	MHz	ACTIVITY			
Daily	6:00-8:00 AM	14.2900	Milwaukee / Florida (SSB)	Wed.	8:00 PM	145.130- ARRL voice news
Daily	5:15-6:00 AM	3.9850	Wisconsin SSB net	Wed.	9:00 PM	145.130- MAARS Swapnet
Daily	7:30 AM	144.1550	Breakfast RoundTable (SSB)	Wed.	8:00 PM	147.270+ Weather & Swap Net
Daily	9:30 PM	3.9725	Country Cousins Net	Thu.	9:00 PM	50.160 6 m. SSB Net
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.8650-	ARES Net (Walworth and ARRL news)	Thu.	9:00 PM	146.910- Computer Net
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.4450	Emergency Net	Fri. 8:00 PM 28.490 MRAC W9RH 10 m. Net (SSB)		
Mon.	8:45 PM	147.1650	ARRL voice news (ARES)	Fri. 9:00 PM 145.390- W9RH 2 m. FM Net after 10 mtr. net		
Mon.	9:00 PM	50.1600	6 m. SSB Net	Sat	9:00 PM	146.910- Saturday Night Fun Net
Mon.	9:00 PM	147.1650	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)	Sun.	8:30 AM	3.985 QCWA (Chptr 55) (SSB)
Tue.	9:00 AM	50.1600	6 m. 2nd Shifters' SSB Net	Sun.	9:00 AM	145.565 X-Country Simplex Group (FM)
Tue.	8:00 PM	144.2500	Badger Contesters (SSB)	Sun.	10:00 AM	443.800 FM-38 link to 146.88 Baraboo Swapnet
Tue.	9:00 PM	50.1600	6 m. SSB Net	Sun.	8:00 PM	28.365 MKE Guardian chptr 10-10 net
Wed.	8:00 PM	28.365	MKE Guardian chptr 10-10 net	Sun.	8:00 PM	146.910- Information Net
				Sun.	9:00 PM	146.910- Swap Net

2 meter repeaters are offset by 600 KHz -- 70 centimeter repeaters are offset by 5 MHz
SSB frequencies below 20 meters are LSB and for 20 meters and above are USB

HAMATEURCHATTER

HamateurChatter is the newsletter of MRAC (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club), a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct.

MRAC Membership dues are \$17.⁰⁰ per year and run on a calendar year starting January 1.

MRAC general membership meetings are normally held at 7:00 p.m. the last Thursday of the month except for November (3rd Thursday due to Thanksgiving) and December, when Christmas dinner takes the place of a regular meeting.

Meetings are held at:

Redemption Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Our April 26th meeting will feature Howard Parks, AB9FH, who will talk about "Emergency Response" along with our Nominations for election of three Board of Directors at our May 31st meeting.

The May MRAC meeting will feature our Annual Auction and Election of three Board of Directors members.

Our June meeting will probably be centered around Field Day which is Saturday and Sunday, June 23rd & 24th, this year.

CREDITS

Our thanks to our news contributors this month:

AB9FH K9LCQ WB9PTC
WA9JOB KF9PU KB9ZNC
KB9Q

Our thanks also goes to:

Rita Doneis, Hal Newton, and Tom Fuszard, for proofreading the 'Chatter this month.

Thanks also to Dick Wood



for mailing the hard copy of the 'Chatter and to Joe Schwarz, who Emails the 'Chatter.

Howard Parks, who administers our Web Site.

Mark Tellier, Tom Fuszard, and Tom Czaja who manage our VEC.

T h a n k Y O U !

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 3/26/07

By SARAH PARKS, KB9ZNC

The meeting was called to order at 8:45 p.m. by president Howard, AB9FH and the mic was passed for all to identify.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read. A motion was made by Ken, W9MOT, and seconded by Hal, KB9OZN, to accept the minutes as read.

There was no treasurer's report, but records for the previous months are available.

Howard, AB9FH, commented on the FM Simplex Contest; awards were given out earlier in the evening.

The date for the 90th anniversary event has been set for Saturday, August 4, 2007. If anyone knows of any important events on that weekend, there is still time to change it.

Howard mentioned briefly that the rules still need to be adjusted for the change in the VEC fund's location.

He noted that he had not heard much interest in a General license class, and since there was not much time to fit in a whole 10-week class before the question pool changes on July 1, we may have only a study

group. Anyone interested should contact the directors or officers. For new business, Howard requested volunteers for a nomination committee.

Elections (or appointments) are in May. Three directors are up for election, and so far two are running for re-election.

Warren, K9IZV, announced that there were eleven new guests this evening.

Howard thanked Dave, WB9BWP, for arranging for our two special guest speakers, Gordon West, WB6NOA, and Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, (ARRL marketing manager).

Pancho, KA9OFA, made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Larry, KC9IJA. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Parks, KB9ZNC
Secretary

DAYTON HAMVENTION

BUS TRIP - FCARC

Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club is sponsoring a bus trip to Dayton Hamvention From May 17 - 20, 2007.

The FCARC will be responsible for :

- ✓ Itinerary of travel
- ✓ Contact names and information
- ✓ Arrange group dinner locations

For further information and application forms, contact:

<http://www.fcarc.us>

or FCARC President, Brian, KB9LRD

920-851-2836 Cell

920-730-8485 Home

Kb9lrd@new.rr.com

Please make reservations ASAP to ensure your being included

OTA CW CLASS

Don't forget our **OTA (Over The Air) CW** Practice and Operating Practices on our W9RH repeater at 145.39 MHz with a PL of 127.3Hz.

Dick McNew, WB9PTC, is currently doing the honors on our repeater. Not only is he sending CW, but he also talks about operating procedures, which is actually pretty interesting. He also has some of the other more experienced operators chiming in from time to time. When he is unable to do it, sometimes Buck, K9RYW, takes over. Dick would like some help so he can do it on Monday evenings also.

The classes are currently on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m.

Please, check in and give them some feedback so they will know how they are doing.

MEASURING THE AIR!

By NELS HARVEY, W9JOB

That's what my wife, Joyce, calls it! Many of you know that I am doing work for Evans Associates as an outside contractor since my retirement from Public TV in Milwaukee several years ago. One of the interesting things that I do is to measure the signal strength at various locations for broadcast stations. While we do measure FM and TV stations, this article will discuss the measurement of AM radio stations.

The FCC requires anyone putting up a tower of any consequence within two km (kilometers) of a non-directional radio station, or three km of a directional station, to determine if there is any affect to the signal coverage due to the new tower. Directional AM stations have specific patterns that are designed to protect other radio stations. This enables their placement where a non-directional, single tower radio station would not be permitted, or need to operate at much lower power levels. Similar to a yagi beam, there are lobes and nulls of signal in a directional pattern. A new tower placed in close to such a radio station can have the effect of reflecting, or re-radiating signals into the null areas, creating stronger fields there than permitted by the license parameters for the radio station.

When a new radio station is built, the FCC's standard pattern system is utilized to provide the best desired coverage while protecting other stations as needed. This new station produces a series of field strength measurements along specific radials to show their design is working and non-interfering. The radials, probably 8 to 14 in number, usually plotted on USGS 7½ minute maps, extend from the station to about 20 to 30 miles. These documented readings become a part of the station and FCC records. It may take 2 to 9 towers to produce the needed design, and all are driven elements.

New cell towers have been keeping us busy recently. When a new tower is planned, in close proximity to such a station, it is necessary to provide documentation that no effect was caused to the radio station. Since some stations have had signal coverage shift over the years, we try to go to a good sample of the points in the original documents, and measure the signal there as it is

just before the new cell tower is built, with a calibrated signal strength meter. Then, after the new tower is in place, properly grounded, and supporting all, or most of the antennas desired, we re-check the points in our sample.

While the time honored method of relying on a carefully prepared USGS 7 ½ minute map works, I have found GPS equipment to be very useful in determining precise locations and distance. The new mapping GPS units show areas and roads that aren't shown on the 7-minute maps that may be 20 to 30 years, or more old. I have acquired a calibrated AM field strength meter, and thoroughly enjoy traveling through the towns and countryside as I travel to the next point on the map. I have done this all across the country. It is always interesting to discover what is around the next curve or over the next hill. I am looking forward to the next project where I will be "Measuring the Air".

73,

Nels Harvey, WA9JOB

OUR WEBSITE

Now is the time to provide feedback on the club website, <http://www.w9rh.org>

What changes if any, would you like to see?

This is **your club website**; I will attempt to make any reasonable changes that make sense. This means any additions, deletions or corrections that you would like to see. These changes may not be made the day of your request, but they will be taken under serious consideration whenever the website is updated.

Of course, there is always the chance of some disagreement among the users so all changes may not be made, but will be considered.

Send comments to K9LCQ@arri.net

Temporary Webmaster, K9LCQ

2007 FM SIMPLEX CONTEST

BASE STATION ENTRIES

Call	Score	2 Mtrs.	0.7 Mtrs.	6 Mtrs.	1.25 Mtrs.
AA9WW	66	20	--	--	12
AB9FH	1	1	--	--	--
K9RYW	910	40	28	88	72
K9RZZ	148	148	--	--	--
K9VS	1080	148	36	40	66
KA9JCP	640	64	54	--	90
KA9WRL	138	105	--	2	--
KB9RDS	10	1	--	4	--
KC9AYO	294	108	44	--	--
KC9CMT	252	92	--	2	3
KC9GPJ	112	112	--	--	--
KC9GQN	984	76	78	20	81
KC9HEK	512	60	44	66	--
KG9EE	42	42	--	--	--
N9NDP	189	40	2	--	12
N9XRO	1313	104	66	60	99
NZ9Z	133	44	2	--	12
W9GA	1862	140	96	90	144
W9JBE	42	42	--	--	--
WB9MXX	100	48	--	8	--
WI9VAL	232.5	92	8	--	--



Bold = Certificate Winner

MOBILE STATION ENTRIES

Call	Score	2 Mtrs.	0.7 Mtrs.	6 Mtrs.	1.25 Mtrs.
KA9AJF	120	120	--	--	--
KC9IJA	1140	148	56	68	30

Bold = Certificate Winner

2007 FM SIMPLEX CONTEST HT STATION ENTRIES

Call	Score	2 Mtrs.	0.7 Mtrs.	6 Mtrs.	1.25 Mtrs.
KC9HJV	60	40	--	--	--
KC9KPW	84	56	--	--	--

Bold = Certificate Winner

CLUB SCORES

Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club 5237 !!!

Badger Contesters 4804

Milwaukee Repeater Club..... 1612.5

Manitowoc County Radio Club 133

Ozaukee County Radio Club 108

**Indiana Dept. of Homeland
Security HAM Team10**

Bold = Certificate and Plaque at AES



THE WINNERS!

Base Station W9GA1862

Mobile..... KC9IJA 1140

HT KC9KPW 84

High Two Meters	{	K9RZZ	148
Three way Tie		K9VS	148
		KC9IJA.....	148

HIGH .70 Meters..... W9GA 96

High Six Meters..... W9GA 90

Second Place, Six Meters..... K9RYW 88

High 1.25 Meters W9GA 144



HIGH CLUB ENTRY

Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club 5237 !!!

EVENTS

Madison Area Repeater Assn. Swapfest

Sat. - April 21, 2007
Mandt Community Center
Stoughton, WI
www.qsl.net/mara
147.75/15 Mhz

MRAC General Meeting

Thu., - Apr. 26, 2007
7:00 p.m.

2nd Annual Central Wisconsin SwapFest

Sat. - April 28, 2007
Colby Lions Shelter
Colby, WI
T/I on 147.75/147.15 rep
<http://mysite.verizon.net/wishamfest>



Cedarburg SwapFest

Sat. - May 5, 2007
Circle B Recreation Center
Cedarburg, WI
T/I on 146.97- (PL127.3)
www.ozaukeeradioclub.org

HamFest, Computer & Hobby Show

Starved Rock Radio Club
Sat. & Sun. - June 2-3, 2007 •
Bureau Co. Fairgrounds
Princeton, IL
T/I on 146.955- (PL103.5)
www.qsl.net/w9mks/hamfest.htm

50th Annual HamFest Six Meter Club of Chicago

Sun. - June 10, 2007
Dupage Co. Fairgrounds
Wheaton, IL
T/I on 146.370/146.970 (PL107.2)
www.qsl.net/k9ona

SMARC SwapFest 07

Sat. - July 7, 2007
American Legion Park
Oak Creek, WI
T/I on 146.52 simp

* indicates VE testing
is available.

VE NEWS

BY Tom, KF9PU

A total of 100 applicants joined us for our session on March 31, making it the busiest session in years (possibly of all time). Nearly 70 people walked away as new or upgraded hams.

VEs who assisted us included:

Tom Czaja KG9EE
Mark Bye KB9LDX
Bernie Golownia AA9CI
Wes Andersen N9YE
Hal Newton KB9OZN
Kent Christiansen N9WH
Ken Hahn WK9H
Larry Noldan KC9IJA
Bob Diehl WB9KMT
Mark Tellier AB9CD
Pancho Doneis KA9OFA
Dave DeFebo WB9BWP

Our next session will be held at AES on April 28. Start time is 9:30.

MRAC VEC financial report for March, 2007:

Beginning balance: \$4,190.10
Income: \$496.00
Expenses: \$278.60
Ending balance: \$4,407.50

REMINDERS

Please check into our nets on Friday evenings.

Our **ten meter SSB** net is at **8:00 p.m. at 28.490 MHz ± 5 KHz USB.**

Our **two meter FM** net follows at 9:00 p.m. on our repeater at **145.390 MHz**, minus offset and a **PL of 127.3 Hz.**

Join us for Saturday morning breakfast at **Maxim's Restaurant, 18025 W. Capitol Dr.** We usually meet at around 8:00 a.m., and order around 8:15 a.m. The food and the company are good and you don't have to be a member of the club to join us.

CQ Third Tuesday

Come to CQ Third Tuesday at:

Old Country Buffet

16750 West Bluemound Rd.
Brookfield, WI

This gathering of HAMs meets on the third Tuesday of every month.

We start arriving there at 11:00 a.m. and leave when we're full and/or all talked out.

EXAM SCHEDULE

BY TOM FUSZARD, KF9PU

MRAC VEC Exam Schedule Spring 2006

Sat., Apr. 28 9:30 a.m.. @ AES

Sat., May 26 9:30 a.m. @ AES

<http://www.w9rh.org/testing.htm/>

AES = Amateur Electronic Supply

5710 W. Good Hope Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

Here is a scheduled of the VE Test Sessions in Janesville, Wisconsin for 2007:

April 21, 2007

July 21, 2007

October 20, 2007

The time and location is listed on the ARRL Listed Test Sessions or on my N9FRY call page under QRZ.COM.

The next meeting of MRAC
will be **Thursday, April. 26, 2007**
at **7:00 p.m.**

Redemption Lutheran Church

Fellowship Hall

4057 N. Mayfair Rd.

(Use the south entrance)

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Please, DON'T call the church.

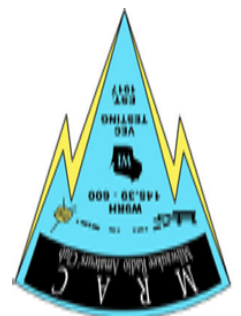
**Our Repeater,
Talk it up.
145.390- MHz
(127.3 Hz PL)**

**Our program for the
April 26th general
meeting will feature:**

Howard, AB9FH
who will talk about
Emergency Response.

Visit our website at: www.w9rh.org

Our phone **(414) 332-MRAC**
332-6 7 2 2



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First Class